



# News Release

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Office of Inspector General  
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## **Pen Set Sent to NASA for Lunar Rock Authentication**

On September 16, 1999, John Reznikoff, President, University Archives, Westport, CT, a specialist in memorabilia, contacted NASA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) to determine whether lunar samples in a desk set were authentic and could be sold to the public. The OIG contacted Ms. Peggy Davis, owner of the desk set, and obtained consent to examine the item for authenticity. OIG then obtained the item from Reznikoff and the materials were sent to Johnson Space Center, in Houston, TX, to determine authenticity.

As soon as the analysis of the alleged lunar sample by NASA experts at Johnson Space Center and a legal review are completed, a determination will be made on the disposition of the pen set.

The current review stems from past experiences where consumers were victims of fraud and misrepresentation about the authenticity of lunar rocks. They were led to believe the objects for sale were rare space-related items. People will pay substantial sums of money for so-called "lunar material" which are later determined to be fake.

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Complaints May Be Referred To The NASA OIG Hotline At:  
800-424-9183